



2020 Hampton Street • Room 3063A
P.O. Box 192 • Columbia, SC 29202
(803) 576-2083

Minutes July 25, 2012

Attendance:

Members present: Carol Kososki, Ann Furr, Jim Lawracy, Becky Bailey, Sam Holland, Margaret DuBard, Mildred Myers, Glenice Pearson, Virginia Sanders, Gary Atkinson via phone

Absent: John Grego

Others present:

James B. Atkins (Buddy), Conservation Department
Nancy Stone-Collum, Conservation Department
Chanda Cooper, Conservation Department
Charlie Fisher, Conservation Department
Ken Driggers, Contract Legal Counsel
Kari Hanna, Palmetto Conservation Foundation
Meredith Walker, Palmetto Conservation Foundation

Chair, Carol Kososki called the meeting to order at 4:03 pm with a quorum present.

Minutes: A motion was made by Ann Furr and seconded by Margaret DuBard to approve the minutes of June 25 as written. Motion carried.

Agenda: Jim Lawracy moved to approve the agenda which was seconded by Becky Bailey. Motion carried.

Funding Request

Kari Hanna from Palmetto Conservation Foundation (PCF) explained PCF is holding a three-day statewide Blueways Conference in Columbia, Spartanburg and Beaufort which will focus on improving awareness of and access to our waterways. The date for the Columbia workshop is September 12. Nancy Stone-Collum reminded everyone the Conservation Commission has funded three grants to American Rivers to create and print water-resistant, tear-proof maps of the Congaree and Wateree Blueways. PCF is requesting a \$1,000 sponsorship to help fund the Columbia workshop. Buddy Atkins pointed out the funding request could be paid out of an existing \$5,000 contract with PCF that is scheduled to rollover into the FY13 budget. Jim made a motion to approve the \$1,000 sponsorship request. Becky Bailey seconded the motion which was unanimously approved.

Report of the Chair

Carol reported the Development Roundtable met recently to continue addressing amendments to the Green Code. Some significant changes have been made to the Green Code which clarify the minimum amount of conservation area set-aside (10%) required to use the Code. Concern over excessively-high densities resulting from the density bonuses contained in the Code has been addressed by placing a limit on the density compared to the previous version. The Development Roundtable agreed to remove the requirement for the developer to place conservation areas in a conservation easement with a qualified organization; these areas will be placed in a conservation easement with the Property Owners Association. Buddy mentioned the Development Roundtable will be dealing with "Open Space" issues in the coming months which could impact the proposed amendments made to the Green Code and the Commission's programs.

Agreement was reached between the Development Roundtable and the Planning Commission regarding the proposed Land Development ordinances under development for the past three years. The new ordinances will be presented in a public hearing before Council on July 31, 2012.

Executive Session

Cook's Mountain

Jim made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss a contractual matter regarding Cook's Mountain. The motion was seconded by Virginia Sanders and was unanimously approved.

Executive Session ends and meeting resumes.

Jim made a motion stating: RCCC recommends Richland County Council purchase Cook's Mountain for a maximum price of \$3.3 million which includes a contribution up to \$1.5 million from the Conservation Commission. The Conservation Commission will provide funds for an option of \$25,000 per month if required. RCCC further recommends a non-profit organization be established to work in collaboration with the County to operate and maintain Cook's Mountain Preserve. The motion was seconded by Virginia and was unanimously approved.

Time Extension

Jim made a motion to extend the meeting an additional five minutes to deal with action items. Becky seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Buddy explained per today's approval of the \$1,000 sponsorship, PCF's professional services contract of \$5,000 needs renewing for FY13. Jim moved to approve the PCF contract renewal. Becky seconded the motion which was unanimously approved.

Glenice Pearson requested Jim schedule a meeting of the Historic Committee to discuss issues about which she is concerned.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 5:45pm. Next meeting date is August 27.

Submitted by Charlie Fisher, Administrative Assistant